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**MAILED**

**JUN 15 2004**

**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**

SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD  
393 DARLING STREET  
BALMAIN 2041 AU AUSTRALIA

In re Application of:  
Kia Silverbrook et al.  
Serial No. 09/575,195  
Filed: May 23, 2000  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ONLINE  
PURCHASING

**DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE SPECIAL  
( ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT)**

This is a decision on the petition filed February 20, 2003 under 37 CFR 1.102 (c) to make the above-identified application special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02, Section V: Environmental Quality, or in the alternative, Section VI: Energy. The delay in deciding this petition is regrettable.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 C. F. R. 1.102(c), MPEP 708.02, Section V for an invention which materially enhances the quality of the environment of mankind by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining elements-air, water and soil, must be accompanied by statements by the applicant or his attorney explaining how the invention contributes to the maintenance or restoration of one of these life sustaining elements.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 C.F.R. 1.102 (c), MPEP 708.02, Section VI for an invention which materially contributes to (A) the discovery or development of energy resources, or (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources must be accompanied by statements by applicant or his attorney

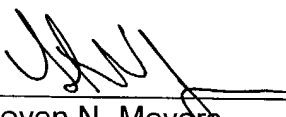
explaining how the invention materially contributes to category (A) or (B) set forth above.

The petition states the invention will enhance the quality of the environment and/or contribute to the conservation of energy by significantly reducing the use of paper in many industries. This reason is not acceptable because it does not directly contribute to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life sustaining elements –air, water and soil as required under Section V. Furthermore, this reason is inadequate under Section VI to establish for the record that the invention materially contributes to (A) the discovery or development of energy resources, or (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources. Applicant has not provided sufficient evidence that the claimed method and system of online purchasing directly results in more efficient utilization and/or conservation of energy resources. Any energy or environmental benefits derived from the invention are at best peripheral and minimal. Virtually any invention makes an operation more efficient, but unless the invention directly and primarily contributes to energy efficiency or environmental improvements any such peripheral benefits arising from the increased efficiency are insufficient to qualify for special status.

Any request for reconsideration must be filed within TWO MONTHS of the date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. Should petitioner desire reconsideration, he should supplement this petition by a declaration or statement giving the information as outlined above. Applicant should promptly submit a renewed petition to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. The envelope should indicate that the correspondence be brought to the attention of Technology Center 3600.

Until the renewed petition is submitted, the application will be returned to the examiner's docket to await treatment on the merits in the normal order of examination.

For the above stated reasons, the petition is DISMISSED.



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SNM/mjz: 5/25/04